

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 01001 051623Z

67

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-01

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R 051541Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4725

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENNA 1001

PASS AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, AU

SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN LABELING ORDINANCE

REF: A. STATE 22882; B. VIENNA 10572

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN REPEATEDLY IN CONTACT WITH GOA AT HIGH LEVELS IN THREE MINISTRIES CONCERNED WITH AUSTRIAN LABELING ORDANANCE. ECONCOUNS DISCUSSED ISSUE WITH AMB. SCHOBBER, CHIEF OF ECONOMIC DEPARTMENT IN FOREIGN MINISTRY IN EARLY JANUARY. ECONCOUNS REMINDED SCHOBBER THAT U.S. EMBASSY HAD SUBMITTED NOTE ON THIS ISSUE IN DECEMBER, DIRECTLY TO SCHOBBER, AND REITERATED OUR CONCERNS OVER DAMAGES TO U.S. TRADE INTERESTS THAT COULD RESULT FROM ORDINANCE. AG ATTACHE HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH DR. GRACHEGG, SENIOR TRADE POLICY OFFICIAL IN MINAG.

2. MOST RECENTLY, EMBOFF RAISED ISSUE WITH CHIEF OF BILATERAL AFFAIRS SECTION IN FOREIGN MINISTRY, DR. DENGLER, AND HIS DEPUTY, DR. PERNEGGER, JANUARY 21. THEY INFORMED US AT THAT TIME THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD URGED WITHIN
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PAGE 02 VIENNA 01001 051623Z

GOA THAT WAY BE FOUND TO SATISFY U.S. CONCERNS

PERNEGGER STATED FURTHER THAT ORDINANCE WAS NOT AIMED AT U.S. BUT AT OTHER COUNTRIES HE DID NOT CARE TO NAME WHICH HAVE SHIPPED TO AUSTRIA SUBSTANDARD CANNED FOODS. PROBLEM WAS THAT ORDINANCE COULD NOT BE DRAFTED SO AS TO EXEMPT PARTICULAR COUNTRIES. (AT SAME TIME, HOWEVER, FONOFF OFFICIALS REMINDED US OF RECENT U.S. WINE BOTTLE REGULATIONS WHICH THEY TERMED INJURIOUS TO AUSTRIAN WINE PRODUCERS.)

3. EMBOFF HAS ALSO DISCUSSED ISSUE WITH DR. WILLENPART IN CHARGE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH U.S. IN TRADE MINISTRY, AND AGAIN STRESSED USG CONCERN AND PRESSED FOR EARLY MEETING WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS MATTER IN DETAIL. WILLENPART INFORMED EMBASSY LAST WEEK THAT U.S. NOTE STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION IN TRADE AND AGRICULTURE MINISTRIES AND IS ALSO BEING DISCUSSED WITH OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES. HE PROMISED RESPONSE SOON.

4. WE ARE CONTINUING TO PRESS FOR MEETING TO DISCUSS SPECIFICS AND TO ATTEMPT TO SECURE RELIEF FOR U.S. CANNERS. TO UNDERSCORE FURTHER USG CONCERN WE SUGGEST DEPARTMENT RAISE MATTER WITH AUSTRIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON IF IT HAS NOT ALREADY DONE SO. HUMES

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